UN Women Executive Director calls for gender equality in the media

In her remarks at the opening of the Gender and News Summit, UN Women Executive Director, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, called on the media to be more gender-balanced in their reporting and in portrayal of women in the media. Photo| UN Women / Kennedy Omondi

During her first official visit to Tanzania in August, UN Women Executive Director, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka met with high-level government officials, women leaders, entrepreneurs, police officers, parliamentarians and media personnel working to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women in Tanzania. The aim of her visit was to open the first ever Gender and News Summit in Tanzania and encourage local media houses to be more gender-responsive in their portrayal of women in media.

The Executive Director also met with women traders at Mchikichini market in Ilala district who have benefitted from a programme run by UN Trust Fund via UN Women and has supported the reduction of gender-based discrimination in local markets in Dar es Salaam. The programme reached over 5,600 women traders, and future plans include upscaling the programme to Dodoma and Singida regions.

Word from the Government

“The UN has remained steadfast in its support of the Government plans to improve education, health, infrastructure, gender equality, good governance, environment and many other sectors. We say thanks to all the UN agencies for the support they provide to us. Let me reiterate our commitment to work closely and productively with UN agencies to ensure that, together, we achieve our mission and vision to improve the wellbeing of the people of Zanzibar and the United Republic of Tanzania in general.”

President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of Revolutionary Council, H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein speaking at the launch of the Zanzibar Joint Programme on August 28, 2018.
“I am very moved to see you fighting for your own freedom, for your own empowerment, to manage your own money, to stop violence and to stand for office and become Councillors and Chairpersons in the markets,” said Executive Director Mlambo-Ngcuka, adding: “This is the way it’s supposed to be. When women work together, they can solve together their shared problems. I am also touched to hear how each of you today expressed concern about the other, and you want this initiative to go beyond, because you don’t want this just for yourself, you want it for your sisters”.

At the Gender and News Summit in Dar es Salaam, organized by UN Women, the Executive Director urged media practitioners to challenge gender stereotypes by telling the untold stories of women and girls who are contributing towards the development of their communities and the country. The Gender and News Summit, which was launched by the Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi, convened media and gender experts across the country to share gender-sensitive media practices in the coverage of the Sustainable Development Goals and propose ways in which the media can champion gender equality and the empowerment of women.

At her meeting with the Tanzania Police Female Network, Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka discussed issues related to Gender and Children’s Desks. There are 417 desks that have been established throughout the country with support from UN Women and other UN Agencies. She also met with the Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly and the House of Representatives of Zanzibar, along with members of the Women’s Caucuses of the Union Bunge to discuss UN Women’s support to women leaders and parliamentarians.

UN Women Executive Director, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (centre), with women vendors at Mchikichini Market in Ilala district, Dar es Salaam. Photo| UN Women/ Neema Muunga

International Youth Day: Government to scale up efforts to curb youth unemployment

In mid-August, Tanzania joined other countries to mark International Youth Day. This year’s theme was “Safe Spaces for Youth”. The national commemorations took place in Arusha on August 12th and was preceded by two days of activities, mainly by youth, including tree-planting, a cleaning campaign and a symposium. The climax day was marked by youth participation in processions and exhibitions by various organizations.

Speaking at the climax day in Arusha, guest of honor Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability, Hon. Anthony Mavunde, said that youth are an important resource as they contribute greatly to the country’s social economic development. He indicated that
according to the 2012 Population census, there were 15.6 m youth among a population of 44.9 m., equivalent to 35%. “We are therefore obliged to create safe environment for our young people in terms of their health, safety at work, accountability, openness, honesty, love and respect, and their participation in various development activities,” he said.

As regards youth unemployment, Hon. Mavunde said, “As Tanzania is aspiring to become a semi-industrialized country, the government continues to create employment opportunities for young people through skills training, formalizing their businesses and supporting them in obtaining financial resources for establishing or improving their businesses, e.g. obtaining interest free loans.”

On her part, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Representative, Ms. Jacqueline Mahon, emphasized on UNFPA’s intention of ensuring that young people are effectively involved in the implementation of various programmes as key to attaining Vision 2025 objectives, enhancing transforming Tanzania into a semi-industrialized country and achieving the SDGs by 2030. “We should consider youth as key partners in development, and therefore they should be actively involved in planning, implementation and monitoring of development activities.” she said.

She further urged the Government and other partners to formulate policies and strategies to enable youth to fully participate in economic, social and political activities thereby contributing to the achievement of the national development agenda.

The Director, ILO Country Office for East Africa, Mr. Wellington Chibebe, echoed this year’s theme and emphasized that safe spaces ensure the dignity and safety of youth engaging in governance issues and interacting virtually, thus enabling them to effectively contribute to socioeconomic development. “Subjecting youth to an unsafe environment, especially at adolescence, can create huge educational, physical, psychological and social barriers that impede them from competing successfully for decent jobs” he said.

He urged employers and all workplaces to ensure safety for their young workers by ensuring a safe work environment. He also urged youth workers to observe laws and regulations and called for the identification of young workers at risk through research.

A procession of youth advocate for the Global Goals during International Youth Day celebrations in Tengeru, Arusha. Government and UN officials emphasized that youth participation in development is crucial for achievement of national and international development agendas including the SDGs. Photo | ILO Tanzania
In mid-July, the United Nations Tanzania in collaboration with Kigoma Regional Authorities organized the first Joint Steering Committee (JSC) Meeting for the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP). The meeting was held in Dar es Salaam and was co-chaired by Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Retired Brigadier General Emmanuuel Maganga and UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez. It was also attended by the Norwegian Embassy as well as various government and UN officials.

Mr. Maganga commended the UN and development partners for starting the KJP and appealed to the partners to support the KJP and other developmental initiatives in the region. He urged the programme team to enhance implementation and achieve more results within the second year. ‘I know the second year of the programme will be marked by implementation of more activities as part of the first year was dedicated for preparations. I urge all the officials involved both from UN and the Government to fast track implementation but also ensure effectiveness and efficiency,’ he emphasized. He concluded that the programme will complement development efforts in the region as the government is already implementing initiatives to improve infrastructure, communication, security and other sectors.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Regional Authorities for their cooperation on the implementation of the programme so far. “I have been following up on the implementation of the programme closely and I appreciate the cooperation from the Government and, particularly, Kigoma authorities in the implementation of the activities,” he said. He further emphasized that the meeting and its deliberations will enhance the implementation of the programme and ultimately contribute to the government efforts in dealing with socio-economic challenges facing the region which will ultimately make progress towards achievement of the SDGs. Mr. Rodriguez also urged the programme team to ensure sustainability of the interventions. He concluded his remarks by appealing for continued cooperation and dedication at all levels to make the program successful.

Ms. Britt Kjolas who represented the Norwegian Embassy pointed out that the meeting is an important link between the UN family and the Government of Tanzania, and other stakeholders and therefore such initiatives should be continuous. The meeting endorsed the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee, considered the implementation status of the programme and discussed the KJP Communication Plan.

“I know the second year of the programme will be marked by implementation of more activities as part of the first year was dedicated for preparations. I urge all the officials involved both from UN and the Government to fast track implementation but also ensure effectiveness and efficiency,”

Retired Brigadier General
Emmanuel Maganga
Kigoma Regional Commissioner
The Chairman of Kigoma Members of Parliament, Hon. Daniel Nsanzugwanko, gives his views on the KJP during a briefing on the programme for Kigoma MPs. Photo | Zainul Mzige

Representative of Royal Norwegian Embassy, Ms. Britt Kjolas (left), reaffirms Norway’s continued support to Kigoma Joint Programme during the first KJP Steering Committee meeting. Photo | Zainul Mzige
The KJP JSC was followed by a meeting between Members of Parliament (MPs) for Kigoma region, the Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Regional Administrative Secretary for Kigoma and UN officials, including the UN Resident Coordinator. The meeting was held as part of the implementation of the decisions of Kigoma Regional Consultative Council which had requested for a separate session for the Members to discuss the KJP. In his opening remarks the Chairperson of Kigoma Members of Parliament Hon. Daniel Nswanzugwanko, thanked the United Nations for initiatives in the region and appealed for continued cooperation with all stakeholders especially the Members of Parliament and Regional Authorities to ensure the programme leads to the intended results. "We are keen to follow up closely the implementation of the programme so as to ensure that it leads to the intended results. Our cooperation and support at all stages to achieve this is assured," said Hon. Nswanzugwanko.

Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Retired Brigadier General Emmanuel Maganga, pointed out that the Government is committed to cooperating with all the stakeholders who are willing to support the region. “We as the representatives of the Government are ready to cooperate with all the stakeholders who are willing to support us. I understand Members of Parliament have a huge mandate and represent the views of the community so I hope you will use opportunities like this to spearhead development agenda of the region,” he emphasized.

On his part, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez, explained to the MPs that, “Humanitarian interventions alone are not enough to respond to the needs created by crises we’re facing in today’s world. We need to work to bring humanitarian actors and development actors together in the approach called New Way of Working (NWOW).”

Kigoma MPs used the opportunity to discuss the programme’s progress to-date and had a chance to share their views on strengthening its implementation as well as ensuring its sustainability. Suggestions made at both meetings has been taken into consideration and will be factored into ongoing implementation of the programme.
Smallholder farmers account for the majority of Tanzania’s population and produce most of its food. Yet they are confronted by food and nutrition insecurity and remain relatively poor. Empowering farmers is therefore key to reaching Zero Hunger.

In July, WFP’s Executive Director, Mr. David Beasley, visited Tanzania to witness first hand challenges faced by smallholder farmers and the approaches used to overcome these challenges through support from WFP.

During his visit, Beasley met and exchanged views with the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli on efforts taken by the Government to address poverty. They also discussed increasing the amount of local maize purchases from Tanzania to support WFP operations in the region.

He also met with the Prime Minister, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa and with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Hon. Dr. Augustine Mahiga. Accompanied by Minister Mahiga, Beasley visited Songea district, Ruvuma region, where he met with farmers from Matimila Village supported by the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA). FtMA is a consortium of public and private institutions led by WFP to help smallholder farmers unlock new opportunities and transition to commercial farming.

FtMA provides farmers with access to affordable finance, quality farming inputs, predictable markets, and effective post-harvest technologies with the aim of making farming communities food secure, self-reliant and resilient. Nationally, the FtMA has supported 50,000 farmers and WFP plans to scale up the programme to reach 250,000 farmers over the next four years.

During his visit, Beasley also officiated the opening ceremony of an Innovation Field Hub through which WFP Tanzania offers opportunity to foster, test, and scale up innovations that can contribute to achieving Zero Hunger and other Sustainable Development Goals.
“We have to make sure smallholder farmers have the tools to feed a growing population. If you don’t have food security you can’t have economic security....In Tanzania 75% of the people are farmers, so if the farmers have a problem, your country has a problem,”

Mr. David Beasley
WFP Executive Director
Special Report
President Shein Launches Zanzibar Joint Programme

The United Nations Tanzania officially launched the Zanzibar Joint Programme (ZJP) on August 28th in partnership with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. The ZJP was launched by the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of Revolutionary Council, H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein at the Idris Abdul Wakil Hall, former House of Representatives, and it attracted more than 250 participants from government, the UN, civil society, youth and the general public.

Currently nine UN agencies are participating in the ZJP, namely, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO); the International Labour Organization (ILO); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO). The ZJP is comprised of these nine agencies working across four themes: Maternal and Newborn Health; Women’s Economic Empowerment through Seaweed Value Chain Development; Ending Violence Against Women and Children; and Capacity Building for SDG Coordination and Reporting.

Speaking at the launch, President Shein said “It is suffice to mention that the UN has remained steadfast in its support of the Government plans to improve education, health, infrastructure, gender equality, good governance, environment; and many other sectors.” He added that, “We say thanks to all the UN agencies for the support they provide to us. Let me reiterate our commitment to work closely and productively with the UN agencies to ensure that, together, we achieve our mission and vision to improve the well-being of the people of Zanzibar and the United Republic of Tanzania in general.”

On his part the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative, Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez noted that “We appreciate the efforts made by the Revolutionary government of Zanzibar to develop the Zanzibar Joint Programme. The UN commits continuous support to the government and the people of Zanzibar in achieving Zanzibar Vision 2020 and the SDGs.” The day before the launch, government officials, Heads and Representatives of UN Agencies, journalists and other stakeholders, took part in field visits to three UN projects. They first visited a group of FAO-supported women’s seaweed farmers in Paje village located on the East Coast of Zanzibar. This was followed by a visit to a UNICEF-supported Police Gender and Children’s Desk in Mahonda, North B District of Unguja. The final field visit was to the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics authority which has received support from UNFPA and UNDP.

Prior to the launch, the UN and the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) conducted Zonal Media Training for 18 journalists from Zanzibar and Pemba. The aim of the workshop was to build the capacity of journalists to better able to understand and report on the progress of the Zanzibar Joint Programme.

*All Photos by UNCG

Continues on Page 10
From Page 9
UN interventions in Zanzibar especially on the Zanzibar Joint Programme (ZJP). Additionally, the workshop enhanced journalists’ ability to report on development in the context of achieving the Global Goals in a way that highlights the best practices being implemented as well as challenges that communities are still experiencing. The ZJP is currently supported by Canada, Japan, Sweden, Norway and other existing funds from UN agencies. The Programme has a total budget of USD 33.8M out of which USD 6.5M is funded so far.
UNICEF Child Protection Specialist, Mr. Ahmed Rashid (left), and Assistant Superintendent of Police, Ms. Fadhila Mustafa Ally (right), brief government and UN officials on statistics of reported cases of violence and how the police gender desk operates to curb violence against women and children. The desk was established in December 2014 and over 320 cases of violence against children have since been reported.

IT Officer of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, Mr. Ali Mohammed Simbamba (left), shows a sample of the old birth certificates which were kept on hardcopy. UNFPA Country Representative, Ms. Jacqueline Mahon (right), commends the government for how they have been able to digitize their information systems and pledges more support from UNFPA on data collection through the ZJP.
Over the last several months, the United Nations and the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) have conducted Zonal Media Training for journalists based in multiple regions all across Tanzania. The trainings consist of a one-day workshop which is preceded by field visits to UN projects in the region where the training is being held.

In late July, the UN and TEF conducted Zonal Media Training for the Central Zone. On the first day of the training, they made a courtesy call to Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr. Binilith S. Mahenge, before visiting three UN projects in the region. They were accompanied during the visits by government authorities, and journalists based in the region.

The first field visit was to WFP’s Saemaul Zero Hunger Communities Programme in Chamwino district which was recently handed over to the government. The programme constructed and restored over 100 community assets such as solar-powered irrigation systems, earth dams, schools and community centres. It has also improved livelihoods by supporting activities like beekeeping, farming and livestock keeping. The $5 million project was funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and has to-date supported 2,500 households in Chamwino.

The second project visit was to Dodoma FM, a community radio that has been supported by UNESCO. The radio station has been supported to increase its coverage to an estimated 600,000 people. This improves access to information for rural and hard to reach populations, so they are informed on issues such as preserving cultural heritage sites, gender equality, and how to participate in a broad range of development issues. Also, Dodoma FM has started Child Vision Tanzania, an eye hospital in Dodoma, as part of their corporate social responsibility initiatives.

The delegation concluded the day in Bahi district where they visited one of 51 weather stations across the country that was established through a $4.2 million project on climate information and early warning systems that is being im-

*All Photos by Aidan Riwa/ UNRCO*
Editors and Journalist are shown one of the irrigation channels that provides water used by communities for various activities such as farming. The irrigation channel was established through WFP’s Saemaul Zero Hunger Programme.

Tanzania Meteorology Association (TMA) Meteorological Supervisor, Mr. Sudi Yassin Kondo (left), briefs government and UN officials, Editors and Journalists on Bahi weather station which is one of 51 weather stations established through a programme supported by UNDP and the Global Environment Fund (GEF). The programme was launched at Bahi by the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa in June.
The field visits were followed by a workshop which was held in Dodoma for over 30 journalists from Iringa, Morogoro, Singida and the host region. On behalf of UNCG, UNESCO Sector Lead for Communication and Information, Ms. Nancy Kaizilege, briefed journalists on the Global Goals and activities being implemented by UN agencies in their respective regions. Additionally, TEF Secretary, Mr. Neville Meena, conducted a session on Development Reporting in the context of the Global Goals.

Speaking at the training, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez, lauded the efforts of the different UN agencies and highlighted that the UN will continue to support not only Dodoma but also the surrounding regions. “Yesterday we visited three UN projects and saw the impact that we are making in different areas. At the WFP project in Chamwino directly impacts the livelihoods of over 2,500 households; the UNDP programme supports the government to respond to the impacts of climate change; and UNESCO’s support to Dodoma FM promotes the use of local radio to promote civil participation and preserve World Heritage Sites,” said Mr. Rodriguez. “The UN system in Tanzania recognizes that the media is an important partner in communicating how people’s lives are changing and also the challenges that they are still facing.”

On his part, TEF Secretary, Mr. Neville Meena, encouraged the journalists to take advantage of the opportunity and to ensure that they report on the issues that are effecting people’s everyday lives. “We have seen the impact that UN agencies are having in the field. As the media it’s our job to identify what is working, what challenges remain and how more communities all over Tanzania could stand to benefit from similar interventions,” he said.
Another Zonal Media Training took place in Mbeya and covered the regions in the Southern Highlands, namely Songwe, Rukwa, Njombe and Mbeya. UN and TEF officials as well as journalists from Mbeya visited UNICEF projects in Mbeya and a WFP project in Songwe.

In Mbeya, the group visited Katumba II Primary School in Rungwe district where UNICEF has renovated classrooms and has improved learning outcomes for students. They also visited health facilities in Rungwe that have been supported by UNICEF.

The school in Rungwe is just one example, however, UNICEF have transformed 670 out of 704 Standard I and II classrooms in Mbeya into stimulating learning environments with displayed teaching and learning aids which has improved learning outcomes for students. They have also trained all Standard I and II teachers in the region on the 3Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) curriculum.

UNICEF is also supporting nutrition and maternal and newborn health in the region. They have renovated eleven labour rooms, eight reproductive and child health buildings, and two operating theatres which has contributed to improving emergency obstetric and newborn care. They have also trained 355 health workers in maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

In Songwe, the delegation visited one of 18 farmers’ groups in Mbozi district, Songwe region who have been supported by WFP’s Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA). The 18 farmers’ groups that have been supported in Songwe consist of over 3,800 farmers. The project improves the profitability of farmers by training them on improved farming methods, supporting them to gain access to affordable financing and improved post-harvest handling, storage and crop aggregation. The FtMA also supports farmers’ with marketing by directly linking them with buyers for their crops. Nationally, the FtMA has supported 50,000 farmers and WFP plans to scale up the programme to reach 250,000 farmers over the next four years.

“We’re very happy that we were able to give editors and journalists a firsthand account of our work. They’ve been able to see UNICEF interventions supporting education, nutrition, birth registration, maternal and newborn health and child protection,” said Chief of UNICEF Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Songwe Field Office, Ms. Pamela Shao. “We are working very closely with the government, health workers.

Continues on Page 16

TBC Editor, Ms. Angela Mangenya (right) speaks to a group of students with disabilities at Katumba II Primary School in Rungwe District. The school has been supported by UNICEF.

*All Photos by Edgar Kiliba/ UNRCO
parents and other stakeholders to ensure that no child is left behind,” she added.

On his side, TEF Board Member, Mr. Salim Said Salim, stressed to journalists that they should focus on how communities are faring from a development perspective, especially in the context of achieving the Global Goals. “Investigative reporting isn’t always about investigating things such as corruption. Go to the villages, talk to the people. They have a lot to say,” he said.

From page 15

Acting Head of Ndaga Health Dispensary, Ms. Ennick Kyando, explains the impact of UNICEF’s support to the facility. UNICEF has provided training to the health workers have also have helped establish nutrition corners, both of which enhance the quality of information that parents receive when visiting the dispensary. This has led to more mothers delivering at the dispensary and parents are now providing their children with more nutritious food.

TEF Senior Board Member, Mr. Salim Said Salim, tells journalists that stories with political angles are important but that they should strive to speak to people at the community level and publish stories concerned with development issues that are impacting people’s everyday lives.
The United Republic of Tanzania commemorated the World Day against Trafficking in Persons for the first time ever on July 30th at Mnazi Mmoja grounds.

Tanzania is a source, transit and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Impoverished children from rural areas remain most vulnerable to trafficking.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is using its technical expertise from across the world, and working on various initiatives that combat trafficking in persons in Tanzania in close collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and other stakeholders including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Legal Service Facility, Save the Children, various NGOs and the media.

The commemoration was attended by senior officials from the government and representatives from UN agencies (IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC), the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China, the US Embassy, various NGOs and international organizations, and more than 500 people from other organizations.

The guest of honor at the commemorations, Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Kange Lugola, acknowledged the prevalence of human trafficking in Tanzania, noting that, “Internal trafficking is more prevalent than transnational trafficking and it is being facilitated by victims’ family members, friends, or intermediaries aiding with education or securing employment in urban areas. For the period 2015-2018, 527 victims of trafficking were rescued and reunited with their families, the majority of them being young women. I am happy, that we are commemorating this special and important day for the first time in Tanzania.”

The Minister also officially launched the National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Action Plan 2018-2021, which is supported by IOM, and encouraged stakeholders to understand the plan and collaborate to make sure that it is implemented effectively.

The event was preceded by a series of radio and TV sessions as well as a national dialogue with different stakeholders aiming to raise awareness on the concept of Human Trafficking, its impacts and measures that are in place to address it. The dialogue brought together 80 participants from different government departments/institutions and non-governmental organizations.
Supporting Rural Women in Kilimanjaro through Savings Groups

From 2013 to 2017, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)’s MicroLead programme supported Tanzania’s Mwanga Community Bank (MCB), a regional bank serving the Kilimanjaro region, to link informal savings groups to the regional bank. Even though MicroLead funding and technical assistance ended in 2017, the bank continues to expand its work with informal groups.

The number of banked people in Tanzania is on the rise, however, many remain excluded because of distance, high fees and limited financial capabilities. With financial support and guidance from UNCDF as well as technical assistance from CARE International, the bank’s former Managing Director, Mr. Abby Ghuhiia, identified savings groups as a way to reach previously unbanked populations. By incentivizing bank linkage among savings groups through lower fees and more accessible services, MCB aimed to expand access to finance for everyone in the Kilimanjaro region.

Under UNCDF’s MicroLead programme, MCB and CARE worked together to link savings groups created and trained by CARE to the bank. The project was designed to respond to Tanzania’s staggeringly high levels of financial exclusion, which at the time of project design, saw 83 per cent of the population without access to formal or semi-formal financial institutions, and just 6.8 per cent of the rural population with a bank account - despite there being 30 commercial banks and close to 50 micro-finance institutions operating in the country. Trends show that poor infrastructure and market penetration make it particularly difficult for women to access financial services, especially in rural areas.

UNCDF supported the linkage of 1,000 savings groups (approximately 24,000 members, over 70% of which were women) to MCB. The programme made significant strides in savings mobilization. Since the programme concluded in 2017, MCB has continued expanding its presence in the Kilimanjaro region through its mobile money platform and bank agent network while linking with informal groups using the model fine-tuned by CARE.

UNCDF continues to partner with MCB, and is currently supporting a project with Busara, a behavioural research firm, that aims to improve the uptake and usage of MCB’s mobile banking platform, expanding access to finance for rural women throughout the region.
WFP Works with Government to Reduce Transport Time and Costs

In early July, in partnership with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the World Food Programme (WFP), oversaw the MV Umoja’s departure from Mwanza Port for Port-Bell, carrying 18 train wagons of food commodities from USAID and Food for Peace for WFP programmes in Uganda.

This shipment marks the re-opening of the rail-lake-rail corridor on Lake Victoria, which closed over 10 years ago. The route reduces transit time by over 50 per cent and reduces costs by 40 per cent meaning WFP can more efficiently supply food to those in need.

As a leading UN agency for supply chain, WFP has established a robust logistics hub in Dar es Salaam and in six other strategic locations throughout Tanzania. WFP logistics hubs in Isaka and Dodoma help support emergency operations in neighbouring countries such as Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Humanitarian supplies passing through Tanzania boost the local transport industry and help to promote Tanzania as a competitive transportation corridor. On any given week 50 trucks are on the road and WFP has increasingly began using the railways to transport food.

Train wagons loaded onto MV Umoja at Mwanza Port on Lake Victoria. Photo © WFP/ Alice Maro
This month the UN Migration Agency (IOM), assisted in the voluntary return of 300 Ethiopian migrants (6 women and 294 men; among them 191 children and 36 medical cases) stranded in Tanzania. The migrants left Tanzania on four different flights in the month of June. The return was made possible through the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme: a regional, multi-year, multi-partner programme co-funded by the European Union (EU) Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Prior to the voluntary return, IOM, in collaboration with officials from the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania, carried out a three-week-long identity verification mission in various detention facilities across Tanzania. As a result, 300 irregular migrants identified as vulnerable due to their medical needs, gender and age expressed the desire to return home. Upon the completion of exit formalities for these migrants, Ethiopian immigration officials issued them with travel documents while the Government of Tanzania granted amnesty from detention for unlawful presence in the country.

In line with IOM’s voluntary return procedures, all migrants underwent a medical fit-to-travel examinations. They were also provided with non-food items including new clothes and toiletries, and given departure assistance at the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam.

IOM staff in Ethiopia welcomed the migrants upon their arrival in Addis Ababa, providing them with post-arrival assistance which included psycho-social support, medical care, and orientation sessions. This was funded under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the East and Horn of Africa programme.

IOM Chief of Mission in Tanzania, Dr. Qasim Sufi, expressed his appreciation to the Governments of Tanzania and Ethiopia for the excellent collaboration that has enabled the smooth return of the migrants back to their home country.

In Ethiopia each returnee will undergo an interview to determine their specific reintegration needs that can range from individualized, collective and community reintegration assistance geared towards supporting the returnees’ economic, social and psychosocial needs under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative project. The programme focuses on ensuring not only the dignified and orderly return of vulnerable and stranded migrants to the Horn of Africa countries, but also to contribute to sustainable reintegration.
“We say thanks to all the UN agencies for the support they provide to us. Let me reiterate our commitment to work closely and productively with the UN agencies to ensure that, together, we achieve our mission and vision to improve the well-being of the people of Zanzibar and the United Republic of Tanzania in general.”

H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein
The President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council

Upcoming Days:

- October 11 - International Day of the Girl Child
- October 16 - World Food Day
- October 24 - United Nations Day
- November 19 - World Toilet Day

A Stronger United Nations for a Better World!

UN Reform at a Glance
Tanzania is a leading Delivering as One country. Since July 2016, the UN Country Team in Tanzania is implementing the UN Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II). For more information on the UN reforms and coherence please visit www.undg.org

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